

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the original sheets with the attached replacement drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the current application. Claims 1, 3, 9 and 18 are currently amended.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner objects to Applicants' FIGS 1-4. Applicants respectfully submit replacement drawings have been submitted to address the Examiner's objections.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 1, 8, 11, 17 and 18 for informalities. Applicants respectfully submit claims 1, 8, 11, 17 and 18 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (US 5,649,000, hereinafter "Lee"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended and now recites "initiating, via a master device, unregistration at a controller having a first wireless coverage area" and "transmitting a message, using a frequency $f_{\text{band}}(2)$, to the dependent indicating to the dependent to register with a network element having a second wireless coverage area, the first wireless coverage area being within the second wireless coverage area". Applicants respectfully submit these limitations are supported by at least Applicants' FIG. 2 which illustrates BS 30 having a coverage area 32 encompassing the coverage area 21 of controller 24, where coverage area 21 of controller 24 encompasses the respective

coverage areas 22-n of master devices 26-n. Applicants respectfully submit Lee does not teach these limitations.

Applicants note, in rejecting claim 1 the Examiner references FIG. 1 and column 8, lines 1-20 of Lee which discuss a hand off process of a mobile 22 between a first cell site 14 and a second cell site 16. However, Lee does not teach that the coverage area of cell site 14 is within the coverage are of cell site 16. To the contrary, Lee appears to be silent with respect to the relationship between the coverage areas of cell sites 14 and 16. Accordingly, Lee fails to teach “initiating, via a master device, unregistration at a controller having a first wireless coverage area” and “transmitting a message, using a frequency $f_{\text{band}}(2)$, to the dependent indicating to the dependent to register with a network element having a second wireless coverage area, the first wireless coverage area being within the second wireless coverage area” as claim 1 recites. Consequently, Lee fails to teach each of the elements of claim 1, or any claim depending from claim 1, as is required to support a rejection under §102.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Yamauchi et al. (US 6,295,310, hereinafter “Yamauchi”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The deficiencies of Lee are discussed above and are relevant here because claim 7 depends from claim 1. Yamauchi fails to remedy these deficiencies. Accordingly, neither Lee, nor Yamauchi, alone or in combination, teach each of the limitations of

claim 7. Consequently, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 7 as is required to support a rejection under §103.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Huang et al. (US 5,448,569, hereinafter "Huang"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The deficiencies of Lee are discussed above and are relevant here because claim 10 depends from claim 1. Yamauchi fails to remedy these deficiencies. Accordingly, neither Lee, nor Yamauchi, alone or in combination, teach each of the limitations of claim 10. Consequently, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 10 as is required to support a rejection under §103.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claims 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi in view of Lee. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 11 recites "registering the dependent with one of (1) the controller and (2) a second master device and the controller if the dependent detects a signal transmitted on a second frequency hopping sequence associated with the one of (1) the controller and (2) the second master device & the controller having a higher signal strength than a signal transmitted on the first frequency hopping sequence". The Examiner admits Yamauchi fails to teach these limitations on page 9 of the current Office Action. The Examiner then references column 3, lines 4-45; and column 7, line

45 to column 8, line 26 of Lee and asserts the aforementioned limitations are taught by Lee. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Lee teaches a process whereby a mobile unit constantly monitors signal strengths and compares the signal strengths to threshold values and, **once the signal strengths fall below the threshold values**, a hand off request is sent (Lee: col. 3, lines 8-15; col. 7, lines 48-60). Accordingly, the trigger for initiating a hand of request in the method taught by Lee is measured signal strengths **falling below a threshold value**, not measuring a signal on a second frequency hopping sequence that is **higher than a signal measured on a first frequency hopping sequence**. Further, the limitations of claim 11 clearly require the comparison of two signals while Lee only teaches comparing a signal to a threshold value. For at least these reasons, the combination of Yamauchi and Lee fails to teach initiating a hand off operation "if the dependent detects a signal transmitted on a second frequency hopping sequence", the signal "having a higher signal strength than a signal transmitted on the first frequency hopping sequence" as claim 11 recites. Consequently, the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 11, or any claims depending from claim 11, as is required to support a rejection under §103.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi in view of Lee and further in view of Huang. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The deficiencies of Lee and Yamauchi are discussed above and are relevant here because claim 17 depends from claim 11. Huang fails to remedy these deficiencies. Accordingly, none of Lee, Yamauchi, and Huang, alone or in combination, teach each

of the limitations of claim 10. Consequently, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claim 10 as is required to support a rejection under §103.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi in view of Huang. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 18 has been amended and now recites: "receiving a first registration message at a first master device from a dependent over a first frequency hopping sequence associated with the master device, the first master device having a first wireless coverage area" and "transmitting a second registration message from the first master device over a second frequency hopping sequence associated with a second master device having a second wireless coverage area, the first wireless coverage area being within the second wireless coverage area". Applicants note, the Examiner admits Yamauchi fails to teach transmission of the second registration message as claim 18 recites. The Examiner asserts column 10, lines 26-35 of Huang teaches transmission of the second registration message. Applicants note, column 10 lines 26-35 teach that a message is sent to a new home base from a **portable remote**. However, nothing in Huang teaches sending a second registration message **from a first master device**. Accordingly, neither Huang, nor Yamauchi, alone or in combination teach "transmitting a second registration message **from the first master device** over a second frequency hopping sequence" (emphasis added) as claim 18 recites. Accordingly, neither Huang, nor Yamauchi, alone or in combination teach each of the elements of claim 18. Consequently, the Examiner has not established a

prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claim 18, or any claims depending from claim 18, as is required to support a rejection under §103.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-19 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

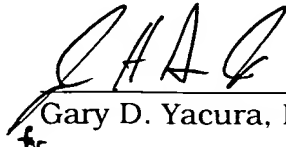
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

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